

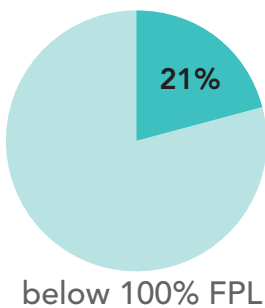


# How is Ohio doing on **economic stability** for young children and their families?

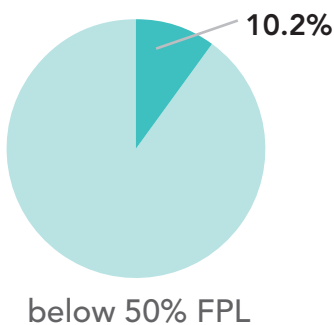
**Economic stability** is necessary to build a strong foundation for young children in Ohio. Families who have financial stability can afford housing, food, and health care and plan for their children's future.

*The data below provides a snapshot of Ohio's performance on economic stability.*

In 2019, 1 in 5 Ohio children, ages 0-5, **lived in poverty.**



1 in 10 **lived in extreme poverty.**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

Ohio's youngest children of color, ages 0-5, are **much more likely to live in poverty** than their white peers.

Black children

3 times

Hispanic children

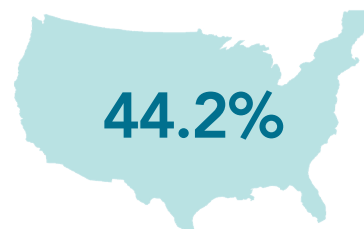
2.5 times

Native American/American Indian children

3.8 times

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

Only 35% of eligible children, ages 1-4, **received WIC benefits** in 2018.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and WIC data, as compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (2018)

## What does living below the federal poverty level (FPL) mean?

In 2022, for a family of three, it means earning an annual household income less than \$21,960. A family of three in extreme poverty (below 50% of the FPL) earns less than \$10,980 per year. When families live below the FPL, they often cannot afford safe, stable, or quality housing, healthy and adequate food, and other necessities that enable young children to thrive.

# How do poverty and economic instability persist across generations?

No child should be at an inherent disadvantage because of their family's income. However, parents living in poverty often face barriers to educational attainment and employment, such as a lack of reliable transportation for work. In turn, their children are more likely to experience challenges related to poverty throughout their lives, including greater risk of poor health and education outcomes and low earnings.<sup>24</sup>

Research indicates that:

- Family income in early childhood is a predictor of health outcomes in adulthood.<sup>25</sup>
- Childhood poverty is also linked to diminished educational and employment opportunities later in life, including reduced rates of high school graduation and college attendance and graduation.<sup>26</sup>
- About half of an individual's earning potential is inherited from their parents, which lays the foundation for economic stability later in life.<sup>27</sup>

In Ohio, young children of color and young children living in Appalachian counties are more likely to be born into poverty than their peers.<sup>28</sup> These young children, as a result, have more difficulty breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty.<sup>29</sup> Investments in early childhood — namely economic and income supports like WIC, TANF, child tax credits, and child care subsidies — can decrease the number of children in Ohio who experience poverty and economic instability.

## Ohio's performance

	Most recent	Trend	Ohio compared to U.S.
<b>Economic stability</b>			
<b>Poverty, young child.</b> Percent of children, ages 0-5, who live in poverty and extreme poverty (below the federal poverty level [FPL]) (2019)			
Living in poverty (below 100% FPL)	21%	Improved	Worse
Living in extreme poverty (below 50% FPL)	10.2%	Improved	Worse
<b>Housing insecurity, infants and toddlers.</b> Percent of infants and toddlers, ages 0-2, who have moved three or more times since birth (2016-2018)	0.7%	N/A	Better
<b>Eligible for and receiving WIC, young child.</b> Percent of children, ages 1-4, who were eligible for WIC and received WIC benefits (2018)	35%	N/A	Worse

For additional information on the data and analysis, see the data appendix.